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Swine Newsletter
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Two Bugs Making Headlines

Senecavirus A

Clinical Signs

- Blisters (vesicles) or ulcers of the snout, mouth, and/or just above the hoof
- Lameness, fevers, lack of energy and/or appetite can be seen in pigs of all ages
- Lesions are indistinguishable from other vesicular foreign animal diseases e.g. Foot and Mouth Disease
- Can also see a 4-10 day increase in piglet mortality that may or may not have diarrhea associated with it (noted in US and Brazilian outbreaks)



Above figures (sourced from the Canadian Veterinary Journal) demonstrate blisters (vesicles) on snout and feet.

Senecavirus A industry update:

- Recently sows bound for the U.S. were identified with vesicular lesions on their snouts.
- These loads were refused entry at the U.S. border.
- More than one Ontario assembly facility has had loads refused due to vesicular lesions as of September 20th, 2016.
- Further investigation by the CFIA has ruled out swine-specific Foreign Animal Diseases in these initial cases; however, some of these sows have tested positive for Senecavirus A.
- The sows were sourced from Ontario and Quebec farms. All testing completed on farm to date has been negative for Senecavirus A and no clinical signs have been observed on the farms investigated.
- Industry partners are working collaboratively with Swine Health Ontario to address the issues associated with this situation.

What to do if suspected

- Although Senecavirus A is not a reportable disease, its detection at a Canadian processing plant will temporarily shut down that plant, as its clinical signs are similar to foreign vesicular diseases such as foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).
- If clinical signs such as vesicles on the snout or feet are seen, it is important to immediately report this to your herd veterinarian and the CFIA. Missing a Senecavirus A infection before market hogs reach a processing plant could have very negative short-term disruptions to market hog deliveries and processing.
- If clinical signs are observed, entry to the farm should be limited, biosecurity measures should be reviewed and all movement from the farm should be halted.
- Animals that are sick, lame or those with active and/or healing vesicular lesions should NOT be transported—that includes movement to slaughter.
- CFIA will investigate all suspect cases. This may include taking samples to rule out vesicular FADs with testing conducted at the CFIA laboratory in Winnipeg.
- **There are no human health or food safety concerns associated with Senecavirus A.**

Erysipelas

- The Ontario Animal Health Network is alerting hog farmers that there has been a marked increase in cases of erysipelas in Quebec and Ontario.
- Erysipelas is a bacterial infection. The acute form shows up as red skin blotches. It makes sows very sick and it can be deadly for piglets.
- Chronic disease causes pigs to have arthritis that leads to stiffness and swelling of joints.
- This affects growth rates and is responsible for significant losses in prime cuts at packing plants.
- Clinical signs tend to worsen when combined with other infections as well as with overcrowding and other environmental stressors.
- Erysipelas can be treated with penicillin.
- There are effective and inexpensive vaccines to prevent erysipelas.